United Nations A/C.5/72/14

General Assembly

Distr.: General
22 November 2017

Original: English

Seventy-second session
Fifth Committee
Agenda items 72 (b) and 136

Promotion and protection of human rights: human rights questions, including alternative approaches for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms

Proposed programme budget for the biennium 2018–2019

Twentieth anniversary and promotion of the Declaration on the Right and Responsibility of Individuals, Groups and Organs of Society to Promote and Protect Universally Recognized Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms

Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.3/72/L.50/Rev.1

Statement submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly

I. Introduction

1. At its 51st meeting, on 21 November 2017, the Third Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.3/72/L.50/Rev.1, as orally revised, without a vote. A statement of the programme budget implications of the draft resolution was made before the Committee (A/C.3/72/L.72).

II. Requests contained in the draft resolution

2. Under the terms of operative paragraphs 14, 16 and 17 of draft resolution A/C.3/72/L.50/Rev.1, the General Assembly would:

(a) Decide to devote a high-level plenary meeting of the Assembly at its seventy-third session, in 2018, within existing resources, to the twentieth anniversary of the adoption of the Declaration on the Right and Responsibility of Individuals, Groups and Organs of Society to Promote and Protect Universally Recognized Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms, with a view to giving impetus to its

Please recycle

promotion in all regions, and request the President of the Assembly to conduct consultations with Member States in order to determine the scope and modalities for that meeting;

(b) Request the Secretary-General, in view of the twentieth anniversary of the Declaration, to undertake a comprehensive assessment and analysis of progress, achievements and challenges related to the ways in which the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), as well as other relevant United Nations offices, departments and specialized agencies, including at the country level, within their respective mandates, give and can give due consideration to the Declaration and take into account the reports of the Special Rapporteur of the Human Rights Council on the situation of human rights defenders in their work, and assist States in strengthening the role and security of human rights defenders as called for by the Assembly in its resolutions 62/152 of 18 December 2007, 64/163 of 18 December 2009, 66/164, 68/181 and 70/161, recognizing that technical assistance and capacity-building are to be provided in consultation with, and with the consent of, the Member States concerned;

(c) Request the Secretary-General to undertake his assessment and analysis in cooperation with the Special Rapporteur and in consultation with States, other relevant special procedures mandate holders, relevant treaty bodies, relevant United Nations offices, departments and specialized agencies, including at the country level, as well as national human rights institutions and civil society, and to present the results of that assessment and analysis in a report to the Assembly at its seventy-third session,[1] containing conclusions and recommendations for effective technical assistance and capacity-building, including good practices thereof and examples of positive impact or change as well as challenges related to the provision of support to States in the implementation of relevant human rights obligations and commitments, recognizing that technical assistance and capacity-building are to be provided in consultation with, and with the consent of, the Member States concerned.

III. Relationship of the proposed request to the biennial programme plan and priorities for the period 2018–2019 and the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2018–2019

3. The activities referred to in the draft resolution relate to programme 1, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management, and to programme 20, Human rights, of the biennial programme plan and priorities for the period 2018–2019 (see A/71/6/Rev.1), and to section 2, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management, and section 24, Human rights, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2018–2019 (A/72/6 (Sect. 2) and A/72/6 (Sect. 24) and A72/6 (Sect. 24)/Corr.1, respectively).

IV. Activities by which the requests would be implemented

4. Pursuant to the request contained in operative paragraph 17, it is envisaged that the request for documentation would constitute an addition to the documentation workload for the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management of one pre-session document of 8,500 words, to be issued in all six languages in 2018. That would entail additional resource requirements for documentation services in the amount of $32,200 in 2018.

[1] Including a presentation for the high-level plenary meeting referred to in paragraph 2 (a).

5. In addition, pursuant to operative paragraphs 14, 16 and 17, an amount of $113,800 would be required under section 24, Human rights, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2018–2019 to cover the cost of travel of three high-level international experts to New York to participate in the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly during its seventy-third session, and to cover the cost of general temporary assistance equivalent to a P-4 post for six months in 2018. The temporary assistance staff would: (a) conduct a comprehensive assessment and analysis of progress and challenges related to the ways by which OHCHR, as well as other relevant United Nations bodies, offices, departments and specialized agencies, could give due consideration to the Declaration; (b) identify good practices related to the provision of technical assistance and capacity-building by relevant parts of the United Nations system, including examples of positive impact or change, as well as challenges related to the support to States in the implementation of relevant human rights obligations and commitments; and (c) incorporate that input into a study containing conclusions and recommendations for effective technical assistance and capacity-building to be presented to the Assembly at its seventy-third session.

V. Financial implications of the proposals

6. Additional one-time resource requirements in the amount of $146,000 under section 2, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management, and section 24, Human rights, would be required under the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2018–2019 to implement the additional workload. The details of the additional resource requirements are provided in the table below.

(United States dollars)

	Resource requirements for 2018
Section 2, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management	
Pre-session documentation	32 200
Subtotal, section 2	**32 200**
Section 24, Human rights	
Travel of 3 high-level international experts	17 200
General temporary assistance at the P-4 level for 6 months	96 600
Subtotal, section 24	**113 800**
Total	**146 000**

VI. Potential for absorption during the biennium 2018–2019

7. No provisions have been made in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2018–2019 for the implementation of the activities requested in operative paragraphs 14, 16 and 17 of the draft resolution. It is not possible at the present time to identify activities within the relevant sections of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2018–2019 that could be terminated, deferred, curtailed or modified during the biennium. It is therefore necessary that the additional one-time resource requirements in the amount of $146,000 for 2018 be provided through an additional appropriation for the biennium 2018–2019.

VII. Contingency fund

8. Under the procedures established by the General Assembly in its resolutions 41/213 and 42/211, a contingency fund is established for each biennium to accommodate additional expenditure derived from legislative mandates not provided for in the programme budget.

VIII. Conclusion and action required of the General Assembly

9. Should the General Assembly adopt draft resolution A/C.3/72/L.50/Rev.1, additional resource requirements in the amount of $146,000 for 2018, comprising $32,200 under section 2, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management, and $113,800 under section 24, Human rights, would arise under the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2018–2019. The amount of $146,000 would require an additional appropriation for the biennium 2018–2019 to be approved by the Assembly, and, as such, would represent a charge against the contingency fund.

10. With regard to operative paragraph 14 of draft resolution A/C.3/72/L.50/Rev.1, the attention of the General Assembly is drawn to the provisions of section VI of Assembly resolution 45/248 B of 21 December 1990 and subsequent resolutions, the most recent of which is resolution 70/247 of 23 December 2015, in which the Assembly reaffirmed that the Fifth Committee was the appropriate Main Committee of the Assembly entrusted with the responsibilities for administrative and budgetary matters and also reaffirmed the role of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions.